

that meant getting to school earlier than the pupils so that the building would be warm when the pupils arrived. There was only one stove; the board floor was quite cold. The teacher usually boarded at the Curtis Homestead, as it was near and there was plenty of room. If the teacher lived within a few miles of the school, she or he would have someone bring them. The pupils walked, some of them quite a distance. By going cross-lots they would shorten the distance. I had two brothers and an older sister who went to school, and I would sometimes go for a day to visit. At that time there were some quite old pupils--around 16 years old--as some pupils did not go on to high school.

The winters were long and cold, so we had to dress warm. I think all wore long underwear. The men wore coon-tail boots (these were thick felt-like material with stripes around the top, which gave them the name) with rubber arctics. The boys wore knicker-bockers, as the boys did not wear long pants until they were young men. They also wore a heavy legging that pulled over their stockings, with a rubber arctic. My mother knit, with steel needles, long black woolen stockings for me. She also knit mittens, black with red stripes, for many. I have a pair that she gave to Ensign Varcoe. She also made heavy wool scarves, which we could wrap over our tam and around our neck. When the wind was biting cold, it could be drawn over the face. I also wore leggings (bought) with buttons up the one side. These I wore over high shoes with arctics on them. Of course, all wore heavy coats. Going to school we had to tramp through snow drifts. The roads were not plowed. (No autos then.) If the roads were blocked with snow, the driver of a sleigh would go into the field to get around the snow drift. The sleigh driver would always carry a shovel, and if the horses got down in the snow and couldn't get up, he would unhitch the horse and shovel out the sleigh. When a road had to be opened, when drifted full, several men would get together to shovel it out.

Back to the school house. There were two small out-buildings outside: one for girls and one for boys. There was also a good-sized coal house, with some wood inside for starting a fire.

Games: The coal house was used for the game of "Hallie-over," where two leaders chose sides, then one would toss the ball over the building to the other side. The one catching the ball would try to touch someone from the other side, as they all exchanged sides. The one tagged would then belong to the opposite side. The winner, when all got on one side, or if the bell rang, then the side having the larger number would be the winner. Other games: Ball, Pump-pump-pull a-way, etc. We sometimes went down to the corner [the Curtis Homestead], where there was a nice swing, between two large trees. In the winter, there was sleigh riding. If the road or crust were good enough for our sleighs, we could ride part way to school on the crust, that is, if we lived on a hill, as most of us did. One year the boys fixed a toboggan from two of their sleds with a board fastened between. This would carry about six at a time. The boys made a track down the school yard through the pasture and across the creek. (They made a bridge over the creek.) Then they put water on the track and let it freeze, which made the toboggan go faster. The boys also made snowballs and forts made of snow, making a game with two sides. They liked to tease the girls by trying to wash the girls' faces with snow. Inside, we played games like Tic-tac-toe on the blackboard. Another game we played at the blackboard was to see who could do the multiplication tables the fastest. The 2's were a favorite.

Punishment: stand in the corner; ruler on the palm of the hand; stay after school; 15 minutes to stay in for whispering; write an assignment a number of times on the blackboard.

It was a custom to visit another school once a year. We enjoyed this outing. The teacher would get someone to take us in a bob-sleigh. The driver would sit up front and drive the horses, while the pupils would sit on blankets over straw in the back, with blankets over our feet. We usually had a spelling bee with the other school, to see which school would win. Then the other school would return the visit. We visited the Farno School (located just below the Clinton Baptist Church) the most often.

We didn't have all the "shots" before entering school, but we were vaccinated against small-pox. The doctor came to the school and would vaccinate the pupils that needed it. If the vaccination didn't take, we would have the ordeal again, or watch others getting it. We had practically all the children's diseases. We were quarantened at home if we had one of the diseases--there was a sign on the door telling of the disease. This meant that the other children in the family had to stay at home too. In spite of this precaution, the disease usually went through the whole school.

Socials and Programs: Box and Pie socials were held to raise money, as well as a social time. The girls brought the pies or boxes (very nicely decorated having a good lunch inside). They were auctioned off to the highest bidder. Some pies or boxes would go quite high, if others noticed that the boy was after a special box. That meant he knew whose box or pie it belonged to. How did he know? The girl only had to give him a look or a smile. The teacher's box or pie would bring a top price. Sometimes the teacher would be invited to spend a night at the home of one of her pupils. The mothers, or other interested persons in the community, could visit the school at any time. At Christmas or a holiday, when a program was given, they were invited to come.

After finishing the eighth grade, and wanting to go to high school, a common school examination was held at Clinton High School at Aldenville. I took mine in the spring of 1912. I have a good snap shot of this building--which is no longer there. This building was two stories high. There was a basement, and at election time the voting was conducted there. Grades one through eight were on the first floor. The one-room high school, with only one teacher, was on the second floor. In 1912-1913 Edna P. Hauenstein taught the high school; in 1913-1915, I. B. Sluman taught the high school. The picture does not show a bell, but one of my classmates in High School (who had gone to the Grades at Aldenville) said he gave .05¢ to help purchase the bell. I don't know exactly when Clinton High School was torn down. In 1970 a Clinton High School Alumni Reunion was held. As you can see from the invitation to the Reunion [invitation is reproduced below], the school was in operation from 1906 to 1944. Alice C. Williams was the secretary of the Reunion, which was held in the Grange Hall located on Route 191, 7 miles north of Honesdale.

My sister Carrie (04-13-1893--03-16-1975; graduated from Clinton High School on June 2, 1910; married on 11-01-1917 to Mervin Henry Loomis) taught the grade school there the first year I went to high school. The first year there my teacher was Edna P. Hauenstein. I had her as a teacher at Curtis Valley School when I was in sixth grade. She was a good teacher. In grade school I had seven different teachers: three men (two of whom only graduated from Aldenville before teaching) and four women (who had more education and experience than the men). Aldenville was a three-year high school. In 1914-1915 at Clinton High School in Aldenville I studied Algebra, Caesar, Agriculture, Rhetoric, and Civics. Some of the pupils would go to another high school to get their four years. I went to Wayne Commercial School at Honesdale. Roy V. Stanton (my cousin) started the Wayne Commercial School the fall of 1915. I graduated in the first class, in 1916. Roy V. Stanton kept the Wayne Commercial School going for 60 years. The Honesdale photographer, Stan Pratt, is a grandson of Roy V. Stanton.

Dwight Rude (08-18-1899--02-14-1981; married on 07-12-1922 to Margaret Abbie Remsen), Beatrice Curtis (b. 04-12-1903; married in 1930 to Henry William Bartholomay), Alice Curtis (b. 05-14-1907; married on 03-16-1935 to Raymond Peter Williams; married, second, on 02-09-1979 to Norman Lund) all attended Curtis Valley School. Beatrice (Curtis) Bartholomay also taught there. She was the last teacher at Curtis Valley School before the school closed. She was also the last teacher at the Farno School, and I think at South Clinton, too. I think the school buses started at Curtis Valley around 1947. Bernice Curtis (b. 12-06-1926; married in 1948 to James Dolan) teaches at Hamlin. Her father, Francis Henry Curtis, Jr. (11-24-1891--07-10-1969; married on 06-12-1915 to Letha Crossman, who died 01-03-1953), and her mother were both teachers. Francis Henry Curtis, Jr. was my oldest brother.